

**GROWTH & REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
July 8, 2014

The following are the minutes of the Growth & Redevelopment Committee Meeting, which was held on Tuesday, July 8, 2014, at 6:43 p.m., in the Lawrence Township Municipal Building, Lower Level Conference Room.

**Statement of Proper Notice**

Adequate notice of the regular meeting of the Lawrence Township Growth & Redevelopment Committee has been provided by filing an annual meeting schedule with the Municipal Clerk, and by filing the agenda with the Municipal Clerk, posting prominently in the Municipal Building, and mailing to the Trenton Times, the Trentonian and the Lawrence Ledger.

The roll was called as follows at 6:44 p.m.:

**Present:** Christopher Bobbitt, Ryan Kennedy, Tushar Patel, Charles Lavine, John Conroy, John Schloesser

**Excused Absence:** Lovette Love-Stevens, Jags Vazirani, Karen Vincent, Danielle Delprato Max Ramos, Kevin Ralph, Boynton Weekes, Andrew Bedryk, Cathleen Lewis, Mayor

**Absent:** Howard Nelson

**Also Present:** Andrew Link, Principal Planner/Business Advocate, Susan Snook, Secretary, Jude Martin-Cianfano, Mid-Jersey Chamber of Commerce

**Approval of Minutes:**

The June 10, 2014 minutes were unanimously approved.

**New Business Inventory:**

Chairperson Bobbitt stated that since Mr. Ramos is not present so there is no new information. Mr. Addison stated the letters have been going out; and will take it upon himself to stop at business to get some data and start to build a data base. Ms. Martin-Cianfano stated the information she forwarded from the Chamber will help. Mr. Addison stated the Asian Fusion is now a member of the Mid-Jersey Chamber.

Chairperson Bobbitt stated the only person on the sub-committee at the meeting tonight is Mr. Addison so we need to get everyone together and have a meeting. Vice Chairperson Kennedy stated the assessor's office has a spread sheet and that might be helpful. Mr. Addison stated one big issue is trying to get a manager's name. Mr. Martin-Cianfano told Mr. Addison to go to see Marion at the Quaker Bridge Mall and she will tell you who the Manager is; and Ms. Martin-Cianfano will go with Mr. Addison to the Quaker Bridge Mall.

**Meeting at Lawrence Shopping Center:**

Ms. Martin-Cianfano is waiting for Mr. Weekes with recommended date and the sub-committee has to meet with the developer and they do not have architectural designs yet; therefore why make a big announcement when there are no new improvements yet. The name of the Lawrence Shopping Center has been changed to the Shops at Lawrence.

Ms. Martin-Cianfano stated without the architectural renderings there is no sense to make a move and recommends quarterly we move forward and support local businesses. Mr. Conroy stated have it in a vacant store at the Shops at Lawrence. Ms. Martin-Cianfano stated to give a local business attention to help them and also have it at the Shops at Lawrence.

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Mr. Addison stated Asian fusion will hold a meeting and the owner lives in Lawrence Township. Carl Fischer left the Lawrence Shopping Center because of an increase in the rent and did not know what they were paying. The Lawrence Gallery moved to Texas Avenue next to the beauty salon.

### **Awards Program:**

Ms. Martin-Cianfano stated the awards ceremony will be held at Brio Restaurant which is moving forward nicely. The Mid Chamber is waiting for the honorees and reached out to investors and Stark & Stark will be a sponsor; however, everyone else wants to see who the honorees are first before they invest \$300.00. Mr. Conroy questioned the amount of sponsorships and they are \$300 and \$350. The bowls will be paid for by the Chamber.

Chairperson Bobbitt stated names were thrown out; however, we have no direction and what kind of speakers will draw people to attend. Ms. Martin-Cianfano stated former Hamilton Ex-Mayor Gilmore is a social media guy and maybe we can have him talk about media and to shop local; the small business owner (such as the mom & pop) stores vs. the large businesses. The members will throw out names; but nothing yet.

Are there any businesses that give the most to the Community or co-sponsored the Jubilee Day or involved with Community Day or a big contributor to the fireworks. Rider donated their property for the fireworks and find people who will bring more people out. The retired Chairman of Wawa, Howard Stoeckel to come and talk about the Wawa culture, which is also on the Board of Trustees at Rider University. He can focus on the whole development of the center and on economic development. Also suggested was the Chairperson of TD Bank.

Mr. Link stated the press release was sent out today including to the Lawrence Ledger which will be out next week and it is on the web-site.

### **Special Olympics:**

The discussion about Special Olympics was there was no traffic or traffic jams. There were signs on Route 1 and hotels did not make money, there were shuttle buses which kept people off the streets. Mr. Addison summarized that it is not a local activity. The grand opening at the Prudential area and it was great entertainment and a great event for the people who were participating and the youngest person was 4 and the oldest was 84.

Mr. Addison stated all states were represented. It was not a local event; it was a national event and the question to ask did it serve the population of people it was supposed to service 100% because it was not about us.

Ms. Martin-Cianfano stated the Chamber is having a celebration for anyone from New Jersey from the Special Olympics at the Hyatt the week of June 10<sup>th</sup>.

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**Sign Ordinance:**

Chairperson Bobbitt stated he did not meet with the members of the committee and a time has to be figured out. The Board members spoke about all signs, banners and how do businesses support themselves without the proper signage.

The sub-committee consists of Howard Nelson, Lovette Love-Stevens, Jude Martin-Cianfano and Christopher Bobbitt.

Mr. Conroy stated the sub-committee must review the ordinance, bring it back to the Board members and make the recommendations. Ms. Martin-Cianfano stated we need to review the surrounding Townships sign ordinances against ours and see if there will be any recommendations.

Mr. Link stated present it to Mayor Lewis and then Mayor Lewis will present it to Council, not from the Board itself. Council must pass the ordinance to change the sign ordinance and Mayor Lewis is the liaison from Council.

Chairperson Bobbitt stated we constantly hear there is a signage issue both in temporary and permanent signs and as the Growth & Redevelopment Committee it feels appropriate that since we are trying to help local businesses to review the sign ordinance.

**Other Business:**

Mr. Addison stated Asian Fusion would like to host one of our meetings. The Route 1 diner joined the Chamber and is doing well.

Vincent Scozzari is the President of the Main Street Executive Board and should be invited to our meetings. Mr. Addison stated the new member should be rotated on who vacates the seat on the Board.

The Board should also ask representatives from Main Street, GEPNA, Mercer Mall, Quaker Bridge Mall, and the Shops at Lawrence.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Digital audio file of this meeting is available upon request.

The next meeting will be held on August 12, 2014.

  
Susan Snook, Secretary  
Growth & Redevelopment Committee